National Agricultural Innovation Project

†2425. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has decided to provide 250 million dollars to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for implementing the National Agricultural Innovation Project;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the kind of research work decided to be undertaken under this project alongwith the names of fields of these researches; and

(d) by when this project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Negotiation is completed with the World Bank to provide credits to the tune of 138.1 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR) equivalent to US$200 to fund the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) proposed to be implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Government of India will contribute US $ 50 million.

(c) The overall objective of the project is to facilitate the accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture in support of poverty alleviation and income generation by collaborative development and application of agricultural innovations by the public organizations in partnership with farmers' groups, private sector and other stakeholders. The specific objectives area:—

(i) To build the critical capacity of the ICAR as a catalyzing agent for the management of change in the Indian NARS.

(ii) Research on production to consumption systems in priority areas/themes to enhance productivity, nutrition, profitability, income and employment.

(iii) Research on sustainable rural livelihood security in disadvantaged regions through innovation system led by

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

technology encompassing wider process of social and economic change covering all stakeholders.

(iv) Basic and Strategic research in the frontier are of agricultural sciences.

The fields of research include production to comsumption system, sustainble rural livelihood improvement and basic and strategic research.

(d) The project is expected to be for a period of 6 years (01.07.2006 to 30.06.2012).

Skin diseases due to BT. Cotton

2426. SHRI B.J PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seeds of Bt. Cotton have been causing allergic reactions among farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result, the skin diseases among the farmers have assumed an alarming situation in certain regions of the country; and

(c) if so, the action plan to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There are no complaints on Bt. Cotton causing allergic reactions among the farmers. Further, Bt. Cotton was tested for its allergic reactions in Brown Norway Rats and found to be non-allergenic.

(c) Does not arise.

Bollworm disease problem

2427. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that premature release of Bt. Cotton varieties led to failure of cotton crops in South India, leading the farmers of cotton crops to the brink of suicide;

(b) whether it is also a fact that entomologists have sounded a grave warning on the scourge of the American Bollworm;